

## Our purpose

The goal of all catechesis is a relationship with God.

Our program seeks to aid parents in their role as primary religious educators of their children by providing a curriculum focusing on the basics of the Catholic faith. The program includes classroom sessions, worship, prayer, and service opportunities. Volunteer catechists conduct class sessions under the supervision of the Office of Religious Education.

## Fees and Tuition

Tuition is charged per child, with reductions for each extra child in the family. In addition, there is a book fee

of \$35 (which covers not only the student's text, but also bibles, catechisms, teacher resources, etc.), and a sacrament fee of \$50 for children in Grade 2 and \$75 for Grade 8. Weekly volunteers do not pay tuition for their children (fees are still owed).

We ask that families make every effort to pay the tuition and fees. You may pay throughout the school year in installments. If your family financial situation is difficult, we ask that you make an appointment with the pastor to discuss your needs. **Children will not be denied religious education for inability to pay.**

## **Medication & Health Information**

We are not allowed to dispense any medication to students. Please share with your child's catechist any health information you believe would be valuable.

## **Expectations of students**

Mass Attendance – Participation at mass on Sundays and holy days is vital for formation in the faith. Those who are preparing for sacraments may need to demonstrate their attendance to be eligible to celebrate First Communion or Confirmation.

Respect – Students are expected to be respectful and courteous to their catechist and classmates. Disruptive or

rude behavior will not be allowed. Repeat problems will be dealt with through parent contacts and/ or a conference.

Punctuality– students are expected to come to class on time. If tardiness becomes a habit, a call will be made to the family.

Attendance Students are expected to attend every class. When a child must miss due to illness or family business, we request the parent call and report the absence. The record will be marked “excused absence.” If we have not received a message, it will be marked “unexcused absence.” In either case, the chapter for that week must

be read at home, unless the catechist indicates otherwise.

Students in sacrament years, grades 2 & 8, must complete the work for their preparation. A conference with the pastor will be arranged for those who have poor attendance in these important years.

Class participation – Students are expected to participate in all class sessions.

Personal Property – We request that students not bring along personal possessions. If any possession causes a distraction or danger to others, the student may be asked to turn it over to the catechist. It will be returned at the end of class.

#### School Property

Our students share space with the students of the day school. Their property must be respected. Any student who fails to do this may have to pay for damage or replacement.

## Book bags

Each child new to our program will receive a canvas book bag. This should carry the books, notes to parents, or homework. Parents should routinely check the bags. If children lose their bags, they can purchase a new one for \$5.

## Children with special needs

All children are welcome in our program. With the cooperation of the parents, we will try to offer a good learning experience for children with special needs. Please call the Religious Ed. office to discuss your child's situation.

## Parent Expectations

- ❖ Attend Sunday mass as a family
- ❖ Participate in religious education activities
- ❖ Complete all registration forms, including Emergency Contact information.
- ❖ Read any notes and parent newsletters that are sent home.
- ❖ Call in your child's absences, to Loretta Eichenold, secretary, 366-7090, ext. 145.
- ❖ Help your child learn the prayers and Catholic facts required for their grade.
- ❖ Call the Religious Ed. Office with any concerns or questions you have, 366-7090, ext. 144.



- ❖ Let us know of your child's special needs or health issues. It is usually best to talk to your child's catechist as well.
- ❖ Attend a conference with the catechist if requested. Conferences will be arranged as necessary.
- ❖ Cooperate with drop off and pick up procedures. Please try to pick up your child within 15 minutes of the end of class. Children not picked up will wait in the Religious Education office (near School office and Parish Center).
- ❖ Let us know of any special custody situations which apply to your child.

## Sacramental Preparation

The celebration of the sacraments should be a part of the entire Christian education. **Children should not be placed in the program for this purpose only.** It is a parent's obligation to see to their



child's religious education, whether in a program or at home.

The sacraments of Penance and Eucharist are prepared for and celebrated in Grade 2. Completion of Grade 1 is necessary for entrance into the Grade 2 program. Confirmation is a two year program, celebrated in Grade 8. The program begins in Grade 7 with a study of Jesus Christ and Christian Morality in the classroom. Service activities and other youth ministry-type events will help to prepare the young person for Confirmation.

Opportunities for special celebrations of Reconciliation and Mass are scheduled at various times in the year.

Please call the Office of Religious Education with any questions you have about the sacraments, or if your child needs to be prepared for any of them outside of these grades.

## Monthly Focus

There is much to learn about our Catholic faith. As a tool to get a handle on it, we now have a “Monthly Focus” to be used by parents and catechists. It includes a prayer, a Catholic practice, and vocabulary to learn about. Parents and catechists will be given supplemental material on each topic for your own knowledge and ability to teach your children.

## Prayers and Catholic practices

Grade 1: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Grace before meals.

Grade 2- above, plus Act of Contrition.

Grade 3- above, plus Apostles Creed, how to say rosary.

Grade 4- above, plus the 10 Commandments & 8 Beatitudes.

Grade 5- above, plus seven Sacraments & holy days, Nicene Creed.

Grade 6- above, plus Stations and laws of the church.

Grade 7- above, plus Corporal & Spiritual works of mercy.

Grade 8- above, plus Gifts & Fruits of the Holy Spirit, prayer to the Holy Spirit



*Most of these can be found on the student folders and in their textbooks. Students are also given prayer cards from time to time.*

## Arrival and Dismissal

*For your child's safety, it is always best to park and walk into the school to drop off or pick up your child.*

The breezeway doors will be unlocked at these times to allow you access from all the parking lots. Parents are asked to drop off children between 10am and 10:15 on Sundays, between 4pm and 4:15 on Wednesdays, at either the South entrance (facing Le Moyne) of the school, or at the glass enclosed archway (entered from the courtyard area near rectory). All students not accompanied by parents will be dismissed from the Le Moyne door.

For pick up-Please form a single line along the north side of LeMoyne and around the corner onto Jackson. Do not double park on Le Moyne, or make your child wander in the street to get to your car. Remember there is no standing or parking on Lathrop.

## Emergency Closings

In case of bad weather which would cause us to cancel class, you can listen to these AM radio stations for information: WGN 720, WBBM 780, WLS 890. We will make every effort to reach the catechists, and they will attempt to call their students.

## **Staff:**

Ms. Kimberly Burch, DRE

Ms. Sylvia Zamora, CRE

Mrs. Loretta Eichenold, Secretary

## **Hours:**

Tuesday – Thursday, 9am – 4pm & during class times, or by appointment.

Telephone & e-mail:  
708-366-7090, ext. 144 (Office),  
ext. 145 (Loretta)

[dre@svfparish.org](mailto:dre@svfparish.org)

[cre@svfparish.org](mailto:cre@svfparish.org)

## How to “live” the sacraments in our daily lives . . .

- Celebrate the church’s liturgical year in your home by setting up prayer areas, Mary altars, Lenten table décor, or an Advent Wreath.
- Bless your children every day.
- Say meal blessings and do bedtime prayers.
- Celebrate important events in your family, like getting a good report card, by going out for ice cream.
- Light candles for people who need prayers, for the victims of disasters, for our troops, or family members who are ill.



- Read the Sunday Gospel together.  
Discuss the homily on the way home  
from church.
- Have members of the family say what  
they are thankful for each day.
- Bake bread together and share  
the loaf, then pray the Lord's  
Prayer.

